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AUG 10 2006

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

In re Application of	:	
THOMAS MAYBERRY, et al	:	
Application No. 09/975,398	:	DECISION ON PETITION
Filed: October 11, 2001	:	UNDER 37 CFR 1.78(a)(6)
Attorney Docket No. EMPIR-028PUS	:	

This is a decision on the petition under 38 CFR 1.78(a)(2) filed April 5, 2006, which is being treated under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(6), to accept an unintentionally delayed claim under 35 U.S.C. §119(e) for the benefit of the prior-filed provisional application set forth in the concurrently filed amendment.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

A petition under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(6) is only applicable to those applications filed on or after November 29, 2000. Further, the petition is appropriate only after expiration of the period specified in 37 CFR 1.78(a)(5)(ii) and must be filed during the pendency of the nonprovisional application. In addition, the petition must be accompanied by:

- (1) the reference required by 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) and 37 CFR 1.78(a)(5)(i) to the prior-filed application, unless previously submitted;
- (2) the surcharge set forth in § 1.17(t); and
- (3) a statement that the entire delay between the date the claim was due under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(5)(ii) and the date the claim was filed was unintentional. The Director may require additional information where there is a question whether the delay was unintentional.

Additionally, the instant nonprovisional application must be pending at the time of filing of the reference to the prior-filed provisional application as required by 37 CFR 1.78(a)(5)(ii). Further, the nonprovisional application claiming the benefit of the prior-filed provisional application must have been filed within twelve months of the filing date of the prior-filed provisional application.

37 CFR § 1.78(a)(6) requires a statement that the entire delay between the date the claim was due under 37 CFR § 1.78(a)(5)(ii) and the date the claim was filed was unintentional. Since the statement appearing in the petition varies from the required language, the statement is being

construed as the statement required by 37 CFR §1.78(a)(6). If this is not a correct reading of the statement appearing in the petition, petitioner should promptly notify the Office.

All of the above requirements having been satisfied, the late claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) is accepted as being unintentionally delayed.

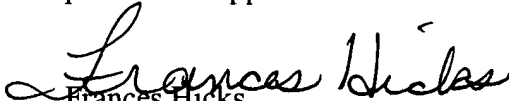
The granting of the petition to accept the delayed benefit claim to the prior-filed application under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(6) should not be construed as meaning that this application is entitled to the benefit of the filing date of the prior-filed application. In order for this application to be entitled to the benefit of the prior-filed application, all other requirements under 35 U.S.C. §119(e) and 37 CFR 1.78(a)(4) and (a)(5) must be met. Similarly, the fact that the corrected Filing Receipt accompanying this decision on petition includes the prior-filed application should not be construed as meaning that applicant is entitled to the claim for benefit of priority to the prior-filed application noted thereon. Accordingly, the examiner will, in due course, consider this benefit claim and determine whether the application is entitled to the benefit of the earlier filing date.

A corrected Filing Receipt, which includes the priority claim to the prior-filed provisional application, accompanies this decision on petition.

A review of the file record shows a Revocation of Power of Attorney and Appointment of New Power of Attorney form filed on March 21, 2005. In this regard, this revocation and new power of attorney is not acceptable, and all correspondence continues to be directed to the address above.

Any inquiries concerning this decision may be directed to Amelia Au at (571) 272-7414. All other inquiries concerning either the examination procedures or status of the application should be directed to the Technology Center.

The application is being forwarded to Technology Center AU 2157 for consideration by the examiner of the claim under 35 U.S.C. §119(e) for the benefit of priority to the prior-filed provisional application.


Frances Hicks
Lead Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions

ATTACHMENT: Corrected Filing Receipt

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